

Message Text

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ACTION DIWY-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 USIE-00 AID-05

NSC-05 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PRS-01 PA-02 HEW-06 SS-15 SP-02

H-02 L-03 OES-05 AF-06 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OMB-01

TRSE-00 MMS-04 /136 W
----- 028392

P R 241406Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8436

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL GENEVA

UNCLAS MEXICO 5530

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACON WCIWY MX

SUBJ: WCIWY: PLENARY DEBATE, JUNE 20

PASS TO: LABOR, HEW, USIA, AID, WHITE HOUSE,-DPL

USDEL NO. SEVEN

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF STATEMENTS MADE IN PLENARY WCIWY SESSION FRIDAY MORNING JUNE 20. MOST NOTABLE IS EVENLY-BALANCED DIVISION OF OPINION ON CENTRAL THEME DEVELOPING IN CONFERENCE, I.E. WHETHER EFFORTS TO GAIN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN MUST AWAIT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER.

2. 'PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE OF SRI LANKA' SAID THE STATUS OF WOMEN MUST NOT WAIT FOR OVERALL DEVELOPMENT. SHE STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER ATTENTION AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, FAMILY PLANNING AS A PART OF HEALTH SERVICES, LAND REFORM, THE QUALITY OF LIFE. SHE STATED THAT RADICAL NEEDS
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REQUIRE RADICAL CURES BUT THE MEANS SHOULD NOT DEFEAT THE ENDS.

3. 'IRAN (PRINCESS ASHRAF)' STATED THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE REMAINED INDIFFERENT TO AN HISTORIC AND HARMFUL SITUATION WITH PERMANENT AND DEEPLY ROOTED PREJUDICES. STRUCTURES MUST BE SET UP CONSISTENT WITH EACH SOCIETY AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN WITHIN IT BUT NOT IN ISOLATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. SHE ANNOUNCED THAT ESCAP IS CREATING A REGIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR GATHERING AND DISTRIBUTING DATA ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN, TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE UN AND IN COOPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES. PRINCESS ASHRAF CONCLUDED THAT TIME OF DECLARATIONS IS PAST, AND THE SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED ONLY BY CONCERTED ACTION.

4. 'PHILIPPINES (MRS. MARCOS)' STATED THAT WOMEN CAN NOW TAKE THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY FOR GRANTED AND THAT NOW THE MANNER OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION IS MOST IMPORTANT. ACCORDING TO MRS. MARCOS, THE DEMAND FOR EQUALITY HAS TOO OFTEN HAD OVERTONES OF REVENGE; WOMEN ARE NOT ENEMIES OF MEN, BUT THEIR EQUAL PARTNERS...WITH THEIR OWN ROLE TO PLAY.

5. 'THE UNITED KINGDOM (DR. SHIRLEY SUMMERSKILL)' STRESSED THE STRONG TIDE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, THE STANDARDS WHICH THE UN HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED, AND THE PROPOSED CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. THE UK IN PRINCIPLE IS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE, SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, THROUGH THE UN, 200,000 POUNDS A YEAR FOR THREE YEARS, TO BE USED SPECIFICALLY TO HELP RURAL WOMEN IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES. DEVELOPMENT IS A CONCERN TO THE WHOLE WORLD, TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE, BUT IT IS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO MUST SHOW US THE WAY. ALTHOUGH WE MAY DIFFER ON THE WAYS IN WHICH A NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN BE ACHIEVED, ALL AGREE ON THE NEED FOR GREATER SOCIAL JUSTICE. DR. SUMMERSKILL NOTED THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT WOMEN HAVE NOT ALWAYS BENEFITED FROM CHANGES INTRODUCED IN THE NAME OF DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THEIR POSITION IN RELATION TO MEN HAS SOMETIMES DETERIORATED.

6. 'MRS. SADAT SPOKE FOR EGYPT,' STATING THAT ISLAM HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ONE OF THE MOST LIBERAL SYSTEMS WITH RESPECT TO WOMEN AND THAT ONLY UNDER FOREIGN DOMINATION DID ALIEN ATTITUDES CREEP INTO ISLAMIC SOCIETY. OVERPOPULATION HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS STRAIN ON INSTITUTIONS. SHE WARNED THAT WORLD PEACE CAN NEVER BECOME A REALITY AS LONG AS ISRAEL OCCUPIES ARAB LANDS, WHILE PALESTINIANS REMAIN HOMELESS AND WHILE THE VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM, RACISM AND APARTHEID STILL EXIST IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE.

7. IN A THOUGHTFUL ADDRESS, AUSTRALIA (MS. ELIZABETH REID) STATED THE TASK OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AND STRATEGIES WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF UNIVERSALLY KNOWN GOALS. THE INFERIOR POSITION OF WOMEN ARISES FROM SEXISM. IN DISCUSSION OF NIEO AND CERDS LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE ROLE WOMEN ARE TO PLAY IN FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING THIS DEMAND NOR TO THE FACT THAT WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN MUST BENEFIT FROM THIS REVOLUTION. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR WOMEN MUST GO HAND IN HAND WITH OVERALL ECONOMIC PROGRESS. TRANSFERRING WESTERN ECONOMIC GROWTH MODELS TO OTHER COUNTRIES NO LONGER SEEMS DESIRABLE. ITS HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THE LIVES OF WOMEN ARE ONLY NOW BEING RECOGNIZED. DOCUMENTS FROM AFRICAN, ASIAN, AND LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES ALL STRESS THAT WITH CAPITAL INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT HIT WOMEN HARDEST. A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER MUST LEAD TO NEW AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CONCEPTS OF DEVELOPMENT BASED UPON AN INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS. HOWEVER, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LIVES OF WOMEN CANNOT AND MUST NOT AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS ON NIEO. WOMEN WANT ACTION NOW. IT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHIN PRESENT RESOURCE LIMITATIONS AND BOUNDARIES BY RESETTING PRIORITIES AND A REALIZATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN THEMSELVES AS WELL AS TO DEVELOPMENT.

8. PERU (CARMELA OVIEDO DE SARMIENTO) STRESSED THAT THE NIEO MAIN OBJECTIVE IS ACHIEVING EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN, NOT RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS. ADVANCEMENT IN THE STATUS OF WOMEN CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE AS PART OF GLOBAL STRUCTURAL CHANGES, I.E., NIEO, CERDS.

9. 'JAMAICA (MRS. BEVERLY MANLEY)' REFERRED TO ECHEVERRIA'S UNCLASSIFIED

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GREAT VISION FOR NEW WORLD ORDER AND FOR STRATEGIES HE SETS FORTH. CAPITALISM CONDEMNED FULL CLASSES TO EXPLOITATION. SHE PRAISED NIEO AND CERDS AND STATED THAT STRUGGLE OF WOMEN CANNOT BE SEEN APART. THE FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THE SOCIETY ITSELF MUST BE ALTERED. SHE STRESSED OWNERSHIP BY ALL WHO WORK, A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM, AND ENJOYMENT OF FULL RIGHTS BY ALL WOMEN. NECESSITIES OF THE NIEO MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND SPEEDILY IMPLEMENTED.

10. 'DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA' DISCUSSED SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY, AND DESCRIBED IN GLOWING TERMS THE IMPROVEMENTS OF WOMEN DEVELOPED UNDER LEADER KIM II SING.

11. 'DR. KATHARINA FOCKE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY' PLEADED WITH THE DELEGATES TO PROVE THAT IN SPITE OF

CONFLICTING VIEWS THAT MAY DIVIDE THEM THE COULD UNITE
AND INITIATE MEASURES FOR ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO05530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750219-0017
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750621/aaaaatfw.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DIWY
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 OCT 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WCIWY: PLENARY DEBATE, JUNE 20 PASS TO: LABOR, HEW, USIA, AID, WHITE HOUSE,-DPL
TAGS: OCON, SHUM, MX, IWY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006